

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 518

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Leith Konyndyk for being named the National Wild Turkey Federation's Tennessee State Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Leith Konyndyk of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), who was recently named Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) at the 40th annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, the NWTF determined this year's award winners based on how their work strengthened the organization's "Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt." initiative; and

WHEREAS, the son of Gordon Konyndyk and Sharon Prosser, Leith Konyndyk was born in Murfreesboro and raised in Tullahoma; and

WHEREAS, he developed a fervent interest in wildlife and the outdoors early on through the influence of his uncles from Michigan; and

WHEREAS, though he moved to Huntsville, Alabama, during grade school, he returned to Tennessee and graduated from Franklin High School in 1993 before attending Motlow State Community College and then Tennessee Technological University, where he graduated in 1999 with a degree in wildlife sciences; and

WHEREAS, Leith Konyndyk is a proud member of TWRA and represents everyone in the organization as a member of the Chaplain Corps; and

WHEREAS, he was also named the Wildlife Officer of the Year for the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) last fall; and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' membership consists of state agencies with a primary responsibility for management and protection of fish and wildlife resources in fifteen states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands of the United States; and

WHEREAS, recognized for his exceptional ability to communicate with the public, create educational opportunities about the outdoors, and provide law enforcement services that assure sound wildlife and fish management, Mr. Konyndyk received SEAFWA's prestigious honor at the group's annual SEAFWA Conference held in Asheville, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the second TWRA officer to receive this illustrious award in three years, Leith Konyndyk is the sole wildlife officer in TWRA Region II's Lincoln County, where his educational and outreach programs have attracted more than 3,300 participants at events that included a youth fishing rodeo, the Scholastic Clay Target Program, sportsman groups, and an ATV safety program; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Konyndyk also coordinated a Kid's Hunting for a Cure deer hunt, which raised more than \$50,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and he taught and certified 109 students in hunter safety education; and

WHEREAS, Leith Konyndyk is trained in the Individual and Group Crisis Prevention Management program, as well as in the Concerns of Police Survivors and Traumas for Law Enforcement program through the American Police Chaplains Association; and

WHEREAS, a highly qualified professional, he has served as an instructor in ATV safety for the National Guard, the Drug Task Force, the Alcoholic Beverage Commission, the Tennessee Highway Patrol, and the U.S. Forest Service. In addition, he instructs new officers in ethics, community relationships, search warrants, subpoenas, arrest warrants, and suspect interviewing; and

WHEREAS, a recipient of countless accolades, Mr. Konyndyk was also named Area 23 Officer of the Year in 2002, 2003, 2005, 2007, and 2008, as well as Region 2 Officer of the Year in 2003 and 2015 and District 22 Officer of the Year in 2015; and

WHEREAS, he also earned the prestigious Shikar Safari Officer of the Year Award in Tennessee in 2003, an international honor presented by the Shikar-Safari Club, a group founded in 1952 for the purpose of advancing knowledge concerning wildlife of the world, independently and in cooperation with zoological societies, universities, and museums; and

WHEREAS, a champion of family values, Mr. Konyndyk and his wife, Erika, are the proud parents of two boys, Lake and Roark; and

WHEREAS, Leith Konyndyk epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to recognize him on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we congratulate Leith Konyndyk on being named the National Wild Turkey Federation's Tennessee State Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, commend his exemplary service with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.